BRISBANE
THIS WEEK

We Know How to Spend Only the Electric Chair Anglo-French Rift Surprise for Blue Eagle

Uncle Sam is learning to spend. A few lines tell you that the Rankhead bill, making the government a gift outright of one thousand million dollars to help tenant farmers buy their farms, is passed. No fuss or excitement about it.

Senator Kings wanted to cut the one thousand million dollars to two hundred millions, but was "shouted down."

Do you recall the excitement when Theodore Roosevelt wanted to build the Panama canal for two or three hundred millions?

Now "one billion" is almost "small change."

Arthur Brisbane

Some young criminals, approvedly, can be adequately harnessed only by the electric chair. In their case it seems useless to talk of reform, or "another chance." They are distinctly of the rattlesnake class.

Consider a twenty-five-year-old machinist, captured in Peoria, who confessed to murder when the clothing of a dead girl was tossed into his lap. "Yes, I did it," he sobbed. This young murderer kept a diary, which in one month recorded 18 attacks on young women. The electric chair should cure his sobbing.

In the lute of Anglo-French friendship and understanding there comes a riff, wide enough to let a coach and four drive through. England, dealing directly with Germany and Hitler, now rejects the French suggestion of a "consultative pact," which would compel Britain to consult France before reaching any important diplomatic conclusions.

That ought to interest this country, which agreed to consult everybody on earth before building more ships, or lifting its big guns to the most effective angle.

It is stated, bluntly, by British officials: "Britain is placing greater stress on friendly co-operation with Germany, closer consultations with the British dominions, and a steady drift toward co-operation with the United States."

News from the Department of Commerce would surprise the recent deceased Blue Eagle, and others: "Business shows sharp upturn throughout country since death of Blue Eagle."

This is the skeleton announcement; the details show retail sales increasing, in spite of abominable spring weather, in some of the big cities.

Union labor demands that all United States railroads be nationalized, or-ed by the people, run by the government. Reason? Private owners do not know how to run them. The roads would be bought, not confiscated, presumably, which would mean twenty to thirty billions of national debt.

Douglas Fairbanks, Jr., and Laura La Plante—surely you know her—after work on the set near Monte Carlo's gambling room decided to go and present themselves for an evening's entertainment.

The doorkeeper said bluntly: "You work in Monaco, so you may not enter the gambling rooms. That's the rule." To their amazement they did not enter the gambling rooms, although young Mr. Fairbanks is said to have threatened to buy the whole institution.

Monte Carlo wisdom is in that rule. The Casino spends money among Monaco's inhabitants, but will not take the inhabitants' money, and so avoids trouble.

Another wise ruler is Mr. Bradley, who owns the tourists' "side show" gambling house at Palm Beach, but will not allow natives to lose in his place. When you gamble, you lose, you lose. If you do not know it, try.

Mussolini has a habit, annoying to Britons especially, of dizzing up past history. He is expected to tell the British: "I want a protectorate over Ethiopia, with a front handed, and I invite you to remember what happened to Germany's colonies after the war. You promised to give Italy her share if she joined the allies, which she did. The war ended, and you British gobbled up all the German colonies worth having."

Sheriff Miller of Martinez, Calif., knows that the weakest thing is superstitious man is his mind. Attack that and you have him. Asa-cete Torrest said he had not killed Area Cabrera. In a locked drawer in a cell occupied by Torrest the sheriff concealed a loud speaker, muffled to make it sound ghostly, and continually Torrest, not knowing whence it came, heard a voice saying in Spanish: "You killed me. I am Area's ghost. You had better confess. You know you killed me."

Torrest thought it unwise to ignore the advice of a ghost and confessed accordingly.

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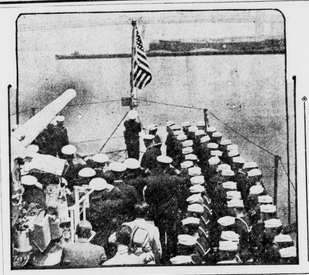

There was a hotly contested freckle tourney during the Sun-Sand-Surf festival at Long Beach, Calif., and the "freckle-meter" was used to determine who was the champion. It was a piece of cardboard with an inch-square hole through which the judges could make the count.

How Many Freckles to the Square Inch?

OLD GLORY

Waves From Newest Ship to Keep America SAFE

It was a gala occasion in the Brooklyn navy yard when the Stars and Stripes were raised over the newest destroyer of Uncle Sam's navy, the U. S. S. Dale, as she received her commission.

As the gobs stood stiffly at the attention, Admiral Yates Stirling turned the fast, trim new vessel over to William A. Corn, the ship's commander, in the formal manner. The Dale is 341 feet long, displaces 1,500 tons and cost $4,000,000 to build.

United States government plans call for the expenditure of more than a billion dollars in strengthening our land, sea and air defenses. It is also President Roosevelt's idea to subsidize the merchant marine.

SEEN and HEARD around the National Capital

By CARTER FIELD

Washington. — Whether President Roosevelt's new tax program for big inheritance levies is put through at this session, or goes over until next year, there is little doubt of its eventual enactment.

The answer to that is simple. It is just that there are, and probably would be in almost any upset which might occur, enough votes in both houses of congress to impose high taxes on big fortunes.

This fact is realized now pretty well by holders of these same big fortunes, so the most important thing at the moment is what they will do to circumvent the effects, or soften the blows, that are certain to come.

One of the most serious aspects affects such institutions as the Ford Motor company. There are many others, though all of them are smaller, but the idea is the same in every case where a big business is owned almost exclusively by one small family.

No one is authorized to say, of course, what Henry Ford will do, as he sees this thing coming. But the opinion of shrewd business men as to what he will be forced to do is interesting.

The problem would be what Edsel Ford could do if his father died suddenly and the government demanded, for example, in both estate and inheritance taxes, say 80 per cent.

How could the cash be provided with which to pay this tax? Obviously by doling what Henry Ford has fought against all his life, and fought against successfully, by refusing to have securities of his company sold through Wall Street.

If, for instance, in view of the certainty of heavy inheritance taxes, Ford should decide not to have such a terrific problem put up to Edsel, some day, for immediate decision—perhaps at a most inopportune time—the thing to do would be to sell to the public shares of his stock, or bonds in his company.

Simple Solution

If the stock and bonds were on the market, had a recognized value, and were being constantly traded in, the problem would be comparatively simple. Enough securities could be sold to pay the taxes. This would not entirely eliminate the possibility that there would have to be a great sacrifice of values. The public would know that these stocks and bonds must be sold in a very short time, and the probability is that the price would decline far below par. It would be strictly a buyers' market.

This sort of thing has been illustrated time and again in smaller enterprises. In fair sized cities, say of around half a million people, it often develops that every "big man" in the town realizes a large block of some local stock must be sold. Always the price declines in advance, and the person who must do the selling for one reason or another gets less than the actual value of his securities.

In fact, one of the reasons many investment bankers have always advised clients to deal only in securities listed on the New York Stock exchange has been that—merely because of its bigness—there was less of that sort of thing possible than in the case of securities in smaller enterprises, where local interest in buying was confined to a small territory.

But in the real big cases, such as Ford would be, there would be almost one just as bad as many of the smaller communities are now for small enterprises.

Wall Street Knew

President Roosevelt's recommendation of high inheritance taxes was not done directly against the advice of nearly all his congressional advisers.

Within two hours after he had told newspaper correspondents that there just might be a message to congress the day, though he declined to say what it would be about, Senator Pat Harrison, chairman of the senate finance committee, and Chairman Doughton of the house ways and means committee, denied to reporters any knowledge of a move by the White House to obtain higher income taxes and inheritance taxes.

Which would seem to prove that the two chairmen mentioned, heads respectively of the committees in house and senate which would handle tax legislation desired by the President, still hoped until the message actually arrived that they had dissuaded the President.

But, what is really of great interest to newspaper men in particular and the public in general, the tip on which these two chairmen were questioned came directly from Wall Street.

In fact, smart brokers operating on the New York Stock exchange knew almost the precise pattern of the President's tax plan at the very moment the President was declining to "take anyone more into his confidence as to what his message would be about."

There have been many leaks of information in Washington. There have been evidences again and again that speculators on Wall Street had advance information as to what the administration would do. There is nothing new about this. There have been many investigations, one of the most interesting of which, and incidentally one of tse most typical, being the famous "leak investigation" by the house rules committee back in Woodrow Wilson's administration.

On that occasion news that the President would make a move to disarm Europe—this was in the fall of 1916—before the United States got into the war—was known in Wall Street, and occasioned a terrific rise in the stocks of companies manufacturing munitions for the allies. It was W. Lawson of Boston, of financial fame, charged that certain people had made millions on advance information. Bernard M. Baruch was put on the stand, and admitting having half a million the day the break, though he convinced the committee that he acted on news in London, not Washington.

Pinned on Reporters

But the point is that at the end of that investigation some five or six newspaper men were pilloried as the source of the leak. Some of them lost their jobs. Some were just reprimanded. All were in disgrace. The whole thing was construed as a terrific reflection on newspaper ethics.

Everybody in Washington knew there had been a real leak—that telegrams sent by the newspapermen themselves were just an alibi—in short that Thomas W. Lawson had secret war rights.

But this administration, has watched the Lawson and other investigations, is taking no chances. This was evidenced by the fact that at 11 a. m., on June 19, the President would not admit what his message that afternoon would be about.

Yet hours before the stock market closed this writer and several others were working desperately to confirm from Wall Street reporters in organizations that the President was about to propose high inheritance taxes and big advances on the big brackets on income taxes!

And if readers will pardon a little confession, the Washington reporters were not able to confirm the report! But the smart Wall Street operators knew. You can draw your own diagram of what that means.

Relief Plan in Peril

The $1,100 per man limitation which President Roosevelt has imposed on the work-relief program, as far as selection of projects is concerned, is only promises to force a general lifting up in the whole scheme, but to result in a lot of trouble, politically and otherwise.

For instance, the big water projects for central California, for the Tuaquin and Sacramento rivers, recently Senators Johnson and McAdoo called on the President. They insisted that he lift the $1,100 ban on this project. The President insisted